December 1, 2019

Sundays 9:00 am                                                                     WKYT     Channel 27-2

***It is requested that all children under the age of five stay in our nursery***

***so there will be no distractions during the preaching of the Gospel.***

HYMN

What sacred Fountain yonder springs

Up from the Throne of God

And all new cov’nant blessings brings?

‘Tis Jesus’ precious blood!

What mighty sum paid all my debt

When I a bondman stood

And has my soul at freedom set?

‘Tis Jesus’ precious blood!

What stream is that which sweeps away

My sins just like a flood

Nor lets one guilty blemish stay?

‘Tis Jesus’ precious blood!

What voice is that which speaks for me

In heav’n’s high court for good

And from the curse has set me free?

‘Tis Jesus’ precious blood!

(Tune: “O For a Thousand Tongues” p. 46)

\*\*\*\*\*

There will be a Christmas party for the adults at Doug and Faith Hacker’s home on Friday, Dec. 13that 7:00pm.  Bring an appetizer or dessert.

Birthdays

2nd– Susan Holthaus                    2nd– Kara Imes                    3rd– Kelly Byrd

4th– Jennifer Dent                       4th– Eden Steeves              5th– Andy Davis

*“A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.”                               - Proverbs 18:19*

A BROTHER OFFENDED

*“A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle” (Proverbs 18:19).*  Who has not felt offended and done wrong by a brother?  I would say no one is exempt from this experience. And who has not offended a brother? *“In many things we offend all” (James 3:2)*- whether intentionally or unintentionally.  It is a very painful thing to feel disrespected, judged, slighted, and misrepresented.  That person is harder to be won back than a fortified city, and the contentions they feel toward the offending party are like the bars of a fortress.  May the Lord give me grace to not offend and humble myself when I do.   And when offended, may I not hold a grudge and bear resentment and be hard to be won. If men are offended by our Gospel, so be it!  But to offend a brother is a thoughtless, insensitive, arrogant, and selfish thing! And to stay offended is equally as wrong!  May we be quick to humble ourselves and seek forgiveness when we do offend.  May we be quick to forgive from the heart when we are offended.

\*\*\*\*\*

*“And now why tarriest thou?  Arise and be baptized!”*

There are people in our assemblies who have heard the Gospel of Christ with the heart.  They believe Him, they love Him, and they truly rest in Him as Lord and Redeemer; but they have not confessed Christ in believer’s baptism.  The question is asked, *“Why tarriest thou?”*  I believe I can answer for them.

1. They are troubled by the presence and strength of indwelling sin – *“In my flesh dwelleth no good thing.”*

2. They are shocked by the weakness of their faith.

3. They fear that they will fail and dishonor the Lord and embarrass the church.

4. They are waiting for greater assurance and more grace.

5. They are by nature very timid and shun public demonstrations.

But no such reasons are valid; for in baptism we are not confessing our holiness, but His; not our strength, but His; not our life, but His!  *“We are dead and our life is hid with Christ in God” (Col. 3:3).           – Henry Mahan*

\*\*\*\*\*

God does not say, “When I see your faith,” or  “When I see your believing,” or “When I see your experience,” or “When I see your baptism,” or “When I see your graces,” but *“When I see the blood, I will pass over you.”                                                                                   - Milton Howard*

*“Ye Are Complete in Him”*

*Colossians 2:10*

The believer’s standing in Christ does not fluctuate with his feelings, nor even the increase or decrease of his faith or understanding or anything else.  He stands complete in Christ. God would never trust any of His children to stand before Him at anytime in their own selves – that is, in their merits or certain good frames of mind.  He knows our frame.  He remembers that we are yet dust.  Therefore, He has on purpose provided for them this perfect standing in Christ Jesus. *“Ye are complete in Him”*, the Holy Ghost said.  He says in another place, *“Ye are perfect in Christ Jesus” (Col. 1:28).*  The very nature of our God requires us to be perfect and complete before Him at all times. He, out of necessity therefore provided all this for His children:  a perfection, a completeness, which can never be diminished.  It is as unchanging as God Himself *(Heb. 6:17; 13:8)*.  Every true believer may walk though this world in perfect liberty, free from anything and everything – yes, even his sin, fear of condemnation, and all else that would cause him to doubt his completeness.  He may freely come to God, worship Him, call Him *“Father”*, and this he may do at all times with the utmost confidence and thankfulness, because in Christ he stands, first and foremost and always, complete before God.  O thanks be to God for Jesus Christ.

*- Bruce Crabtree*

\*\*\*\*\*

In Christ, there is no further perfection to attain.  In Christ, a sinner is made to be everything that God requires him to be.  In Christ, wisdom is complete, righteousness is complete, sanctification is complete, and redemption is complete.  To know Him is to know it all, and to have Him is to have it all.  In Christ, we are as perfectly complete as we will ever be.

*- Gabe Stalnaker*